

What is Claimed is:

1. A rear-view display system for vehicle comprising:
a camera disposed near a rear of the vehicle, the camera being generally rearward facing;
a display in the general form of a rear-view mirror, the display being disposed near a top center portion of a windshield of the vehicle, the display being configured to display a video image acquired by the camera;
at least one position sensor coupled to the display; and
a servo system coupled to the camera, the servo system being configured to control the direction of the camera based upon information obtained from the at least one position sensor.
2. The rear-view display system of claim 1, wherein the servo system includes two motors, wherein a first motor controls movement of the direction of the camera in a first dimension, and a second motor controls movement of the direction of the camera in a second dimension.
3. The rear-view display system of claim 2, wherein the first dimension is a horizontal dimension and the second dimension is a vertical dimension.
4. The rear-view display system of claim 1, further including a controller configured to generate at least one control signal to control the servo system and thereby control the direction in which the camera points.

5. The rear-view display system of claim 4, wherein the controller is configured to point the camera in a direction that closely parallels the direction of the display, as determined by the at least one position sensor.

6. The rear-view display system of claim 1, wherein the camera includes a zoom lens.

7. The rear-view display system of claim 6, further including controls disposed within a passenger compartment of the vehicle to control the magnitude of zoom of the camera lens.

8. The rear-view display system of claim 7, wherein the controls include a first button that, when activated, increases the magnitude of the zoom, and a second button that, when activated, decreases the magnitude of the zoom.

9. The rear-view display system of claim 8, wherein the first and second buttons are disposed on the display.

10. The rear-view display system of claim 1, further including a fluid ejection mechanism configured to remove debris from the camera.

11. The rear-view display system of claim 10, wherein the fluid ejection mechanism includes a fluid reservoir for storing fluid for clearing debris from the camera.

12. The rear-view display system of claim 10, wherein the fluid ejection mechanism includes at least one fluid ejection nozzle disposed to, when activated, spray fluid onto the camera.

13. The rear-view display system of claim 10, wherein the fluid ejection mechanism includes at least one valve for selectively allowing fluid to pass from a fluid reservoir to at least one ejection nozzle, the fluid ejection mechanism further including a control mechanism disposed within a passenger compartment of the vehicle for controlling a state of the at least one control valve.

14. The rear-view display system of claim 1, wherein the display is one selected from the group consisting of a liquid crystal display (LCD), a flat-panel display, a cathode ray tube (CRT) display, and a plasma display.

15. A rear-view display system for a vehicle comprising:
a camera disposed near a rear of the vehicle, the camera being generally rearward facing; and

a display in the general form of a rear-view mirror, the display being disposed near a top center portion of a windshield of the vehicle, the display being configured to display an image acquired by the camera.

16. The rear-view display system of claim 15, further including:

at least one position sensor coupled to the display; and

a servo system coupled to the camera, the servo system being configured to control the direction of the camera based upon information obtained from the at least one position sensor.

17. The rear-view display system of claim 15, wherein the vehicle is one selected from the group consisting of a tractor-trailer, a truck, a van, and a car.